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## **A new species of *Platydomene* from North India (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)**

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**A b s t r a c t :** *Platydomene shavrini* nov.sp. from North India (Uttarakhand), the first *Platydomene* species to be recorded from the Himalaya, is described and illustrated. The genus *Platydomene* GANGLBAUER, 1895 is now represented in the Palaearctic region by 27 species and three subspecies, of which fourteen species are distributed in the East Palaearctic.

**K e y w o r d s :** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, *Platydomene*, Palaearctic region, North India, new species.

### **Introduction**

The genus *Platydomene* GANGLBAUER, 1895 of the Lathrobiina was previously represented in the Palaearctic region by 26 species and three subspecies. Thirteen species and three subspecies are distributed in the West Palaearctic region. The thirteen remaining species from the East Palaearctic have been recorded from Japan (eleven species) and Taiwan (two species) (ASSING 2003, 2008, 2010; SMETANA 2004; WATANABE 2008, 2009). The genus was previously unknown from the Himalaya.

Among material of Staphylinidae collected in Uttarakhand (North India) and made available to me by Alexey Shavrin (Daugavpils), a male of an undescribed *Platydomene* species was discovered.

### **Material and methods**

The holotype is deposited in the author's private collection.

The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images of the forebody and the antenna were created using a photographing device constructed by Arved Lompe (Nienburg) and CombineZ software. For the remaining photographs a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used.

Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the mandibles (in resting

position) to the posterior margin of tergite VIII, the length of the forebody from the anterior margin of the mandibles to the posterior margin of the elytra, head length from the anterior margin of the frons to the posterior margin of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra (at the sutural angles), and the length of the aedeagus from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the aedeagal capsule. The "parameral" side (i.e., the side where the sperm duct enters) is referred to as the ventral, the opposite side as the dorsal aspect.

## Description

### *Platydomene shavrini* nov.sp. (Figs 1-7)

**Type material:** Holotype ♂: "N INDIA Uttarakhand, 13-15.04.2012, Uttarkashi distr., N30°57'41.57", E78°41'54.75", left tributary of Bhagirathi riv. / Holotypus ♂ *Platydomene shavrini* sp. n., det. V. Assing 2014" (coll. Assing).

**Etymology:** This species is dedicated to Alexey Shavrin (Daugavpils), who collected the holotype.

**Description:** Body length 7.2 mm; length of forebody 3.9 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration: forebody brown, with the posterior half of the elytra diffusely reddish; abdomen bicolored: segments III-VI blackish and segments VII-X reddish; legs reddish-brown; antennae brown.

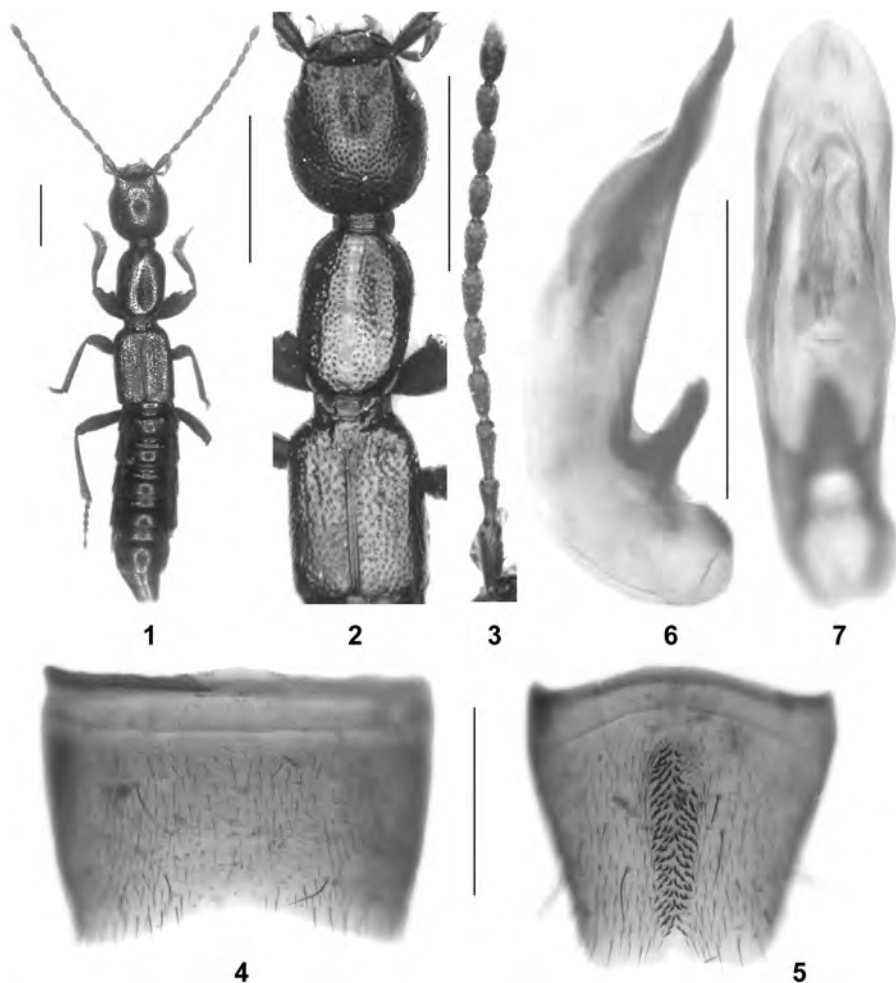
Head (Fig. 2) 1.13 times as long as broad and of oval shape, posterior angles practically obsolete; punctuation moderately coarse and dense; interstices distinctly narrower than diameter of punctures, without microsculpture in median dorsal portion and with very shallow, barely noticeable microsculpture in posterior and lateral portions. Eyes not projecting from lateral contours of head, approximately one-fourth as long as distance from posterior margin of eye to neck. Antenna (Fig. 3) 3 mm long and slender, all antennomeres distinctly oblong.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) 1.42 times as long as broad and 0.80 times as broad as head; punctuation similar to that of head, but slightly sparser; interstices without microsculpture; impunctate midline complete and rather broad.

Elytra (Fig. 2) 0.85 times as long as pronotum; punctuation coarser than that of head and pronotum; interstices without microsculpture. Hind wings not examined, but probably present. Metatarsomere I as long as II.

Abdomen (Fig. 1) broadest at segment VI, distinctly broader than elytra; punctuation fine and dense; interstices with distinct microsculpture predominantly composed of transverse meshes; posterior margin of tergite VII with palisade fringe; posterior margin of tergite VIII strongly convex.

♂: sternite VII (Fig. 4) strongly transverse and with strongly concave posterior margin, pubescence unmodified; sternite VIII (Fig. 5) weakly transverse and with narrow impression along middle, this impression with numerous strongly modified short and stout black setae, posterior margin truncate and with small median excision; aedeagus 1.0 mm long, shaped as in Figs 6-7.



**Figs 1-7:** *Platydomena shavrini* nov.sp.: (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) antenna; (4) male sternite VII; (5) male sternite VIII; (6-7) aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view. Scale bars: 1-3: 1.0 mm; 4-7: 0.5 mm.

**Comparative notes:** The new species is distinguished from all its congeners by the male primary and secondary sexual characters (morphology of the aedeagus; shape and chaetotaxy of the male sternite VIII). The shape of the ventral process of the aedeagus is somewhat similar, but not identical, to those of *P. stoeckleini* (KOCH, 1937) from Iran and Iraq and of *P. lanugo* ASSING, 2003 from Turkey. These species, however, have a more transverse male sternite VIII with a much shorter median impression and a much shorter median cluster of modified setae. For illustrations of *P. stoeckleini* and *P. lanugo* see ASSING (2003).

**Distribution and natural history:** Its type locality situated in the northwest of Uttarakhand, Northwest India, *P. shavrini* is currently the sole

representative of the genus in the Himalaya. The holotype was apparently collected on a river bank.

### Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the Alexey Shavrin for the generous gift of the holotype of *P. shavrini*. Benedikt Feldmann (Münster) proof-read the manuscript.

### Zusammenfassung

*Platydomene shavrini* nov.sp. aus Nordindien (Uttarakhand), der erste Nachweis der Gattung aus dem Himalaya, wird beschrieben und abgebildet. *Platydomene* GANGLBAUER, 1895 ist derzeit mit 27 Arten und drei Unterarten in der Paläarktis vertreten, von denen 14 Arten in der Ostpaläarktis verbreitet sind.

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